

# STRATEGIC DETERRENCE JOINT OPERATING CONCEPT (SD JOC)

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Strategic Deterrence (SD) is the prevention of aggression or coercion by adversaries that threaten vital interests of the United States. It encompasses the range of DOD capabilities that alter the adversary's will and ability to attack the United States, its allies, economic stability, or development of democracies throughout the world. Deterrence not only addresses the prevention of conflict, but also continues once conflict is joined to prevent its escalation or expansion through the employment of other capabilities, such as weapons of mass destruction (WMD), or the invasion of a neutral country. Due to the breadth of potential adversary actions, U.S. joint forces must be prepared to deter with a wide array of military capabilities, several of which are directly connected to other JOCs, which underwrite strategic deterrence. U.S. forces' capability to decisively defeat an adversary in an MCO provides a powerful deterrent to potential adversaries. Forward-stationed, forward-deployed and expeditionary forces around the world, and Theater Security Cooperation actions provide inherent deterrent value and assist in maintaining situational understanding. Similarly, active and passive homeland defense capabilities are major contributors to strategic deterrence with respect to attacks on the United States.

### JOC DESCRIPTION (Version 0.2, dated 5 September 2003)

The SD JOC describes how a JFC will plan, prepare, deploy, employ, and sustain a joint force to achieve specific deterrence objectives established by the national leadership of the United States. The JOC stipulates that to achieve these objectives, joint force operations and activities must decisively influence the strategic deterrence

center of gravity of potential adversaries—the decision-making processes of key adversary leaders. The JOC emphasizes that formulating an effective set of strategic deterrent joint operations and activities requires that the JFC undertake specific efforts to gain an understanding of the adversary's point of view, decision processes, and proclivities, including his risk-taking propensities.

The JOC focuses on three fundamental approaches to influencing an adversary's decision-making processes. Deterrence by benefit denial involves the use of joint forces to convince an adversary that the benefits sought are of little value or are unlikely to be achieved by taking the course of action the United States seeks to deter. Deterrence by cost imposition involves the threatened use of joint forces to convince an adversary that the costs incurred as a result of taking the undesirable course of action that the United States seeks to deter will be very severe. Finally, an adversary may be deterred from initiating a particularly threatening course of action prior to or during a conflict by constraining U.S. actions, if consistent with broader U.S. interests and war aims, to mitigate the perceived consequences/costs of inaction or restraint on the part of the adversary. Without this U.S. restraint, American actions, if viewed as highly threatening, could trigger the highly threatening adversary action we seek to avoid.

### JOINT CAPABILITIES

The SD JOC remains under development and does not yet address the full scope of required joint capabilities. The SD JOC stipulates that coalition deterrence operations should be integrated where practicable, but strategic deterrence must also be viable as a unilateral concept. The

current list of key strategic deterrence capabilities identified by the SD JOC include:

- Force projection capabilities, including the capability to decisively defeat regional aggression
- Kinetic and nonkinetic Global Strike capabilities, including nuclear weapons
- Active and passive defense measures, including WME mitigation and consequence management capabilities
- Strategic deterrence information operations capabilities
- Space control capabilities

## ARMY CAPABILITIES

Army capabilities that support MCO and stability operations greatly enhance the deterrent value of each, and therefore directly support the overall concept of strategic deterrence. Additionally, the following Army capabilities are unique to successful prosecution of the SD JOC, particularly in operations using the approaches of benefit denial and cost imposition.

### Force Application

- Modular, combined arms combat forces rapidly deployable, in a ready-to-fight configuration, into a JOA at the time and location required by the combatant commander
- Increased SOF capabilities, including covert insertion, unconventional operations, PSYOP, civil affairs, special reconnaissance and direct action to conduct battlespace preparation in the manner and time frames required by the combatant commander
- Enhanced offensive information operations capabilities, including electronic warfare and computer network attack
- Modular combat forces tailorable as part of a joint team for limited duration Global Strike operations

### Battle Command

- Battle command on-the-move capabilities that support and enable rapid, integrated and near-simultaneous operations throughout the JOA, including the land force component of the COP, real-time blue and gray force tracking, en route mission planning and rehearsal capabilities, and long-range communications
- Ground-based space control capabilities to assure JFC access to key C2 and ISR networks and systems, and deny an adversary the same

### Protection

- Ground-based integrated missile defense capabilities for homeland defense and protection of forward-deployed forces and allies
- Increased CT capabilities to support and conduct CT operations worldwide
- Increased counter-WMD capabilities to support and conduct counter-WMD operations worldwide
- Increased CI and counterespionage activities to preclude the compromise of classified or sensitive information and advanced technologies
- Drugs and vaccines that protect against weaponized biological and chemical agents
- Protection against environmental and occupational hazards such as toxic industrial materials (TIM)

### Focused Logistics

- Networked logistics information systems, enabled by agile, assured communications, that allow logisticians to see requirements in near real time, and provide the decision support tools necessary for sense and respond logistics
- Increased theater support capabilities for the joint force to enable synchronized shaping and decisive operations throughout the depth and breadth of the JOA

- Networked logistics information systems, enabled by agile, assured communications, that allow logisticians to see requirements in near real time, and provide the decision support tools necessary for sense and respond logistics
- Joint-integrated communications and ISR capabilities and networks to gain information and decision superiority and battlespace understanding, share a COP, determine the adversary's decision-making process, and enable effective JC2 of strategic deterrence operations
- Strategic air- and sealift and sustainment capabilities to support Global Strike operations

## **JOINT INTERDEPENDENCIES**

Several significant (but not all-inclusive) examples of interdependent capabilities required to dominate the enemy are: